

## OPPORTUNITY.

ROGER DARLING.

Text Gal. 6: 10.

There are many opportunities that come to us in life, and they flee away and we do not see them until they are gone forever, leaving behind them many regrets.

We pass through life side by side with many friends and associates, and we lay them beneath the clods of the valley. We stand beside their graves and there comes to us a panorama of many missed opportunities that we did not see when they were with us. We had the opportunity of speaking kind words to them but we missed it and spoke harsh words in their stead. We had the opportunity to carry beautiful flowers to them when they were passing silently down death's valley, but we did not.

There is a proverb from the Latin which reads thus, "Opportunity has hair in front, behind she is bald, if you seize her by the forelock, you may hold her, but, if suffered to escape not Jupiter himself can catch her again." A sculptor, said Rev. Dr. Hudson in a sermon, once showed a visitor his studio. It was full of gods. One was very curious. The face was concealed by being covered with hair and there were wings on each foot. "What is its name?" said the spectator. "Opportunity," was the reply. "Why is his face hidden?" "Because men seldom know him when he comes to them." "Why has he wings on his feet?" "Because he is soon gone, and once gone can never be overtaken."

There is a story told of a Christian miner and a profane officer. They went down into the mine together, and as they were coming up out of the mine in the cage the profane officer said, "If it be so far down to your work, how much farther would it be to the bottomless pit?" The Christian miner responded, "I do not know how far it is down to that place, but if this rope should break you would be there in a moment." This was the miners opportunity. Why is it that when Lincoln's name is spoken, that it creates within our hearts a feeling of veneration? Because he grasped every opportunity. It was the life of Washington showing that he grasped every opportunity which immortalized his name. No doubt that many before Galileo had seen a suspended weight swing to and fro, but they saw nothing in it, but when he saw that person hang that lamp in the cathedral at Pisa and he saw it swing to and fro, it was then that he conceived the idea of the pendulum which to-day is indispensable in

measuring time and astronomical calculations. This was his opportunity. There was Sir Samuel Brown who one morning while walking in his garden noticed a tiny spider's web stretched across his path and the result was the invention of the suspension bridge. This was his opportunity. Galvani grasped the opportunity of the discovery of electricity by noticing that a frog's leg twitched when it came in contact with different metals. Paul Lucca the almost matchless singer, hardly any one knew her, until one day when the leader of a great German choir was absent, she took her place, and then she grasped the opportunity, and began the enchantment of the world. Newton, while lying under an apple tree, saw an apple fall to the ground, this opportunity was grasped by Newton, and it brought to us a discovery of that mysterious force called "gravity," which holds millions of shining worlds in their places as we see them pass, "like ships in the far-off beautiful unknown, regardless of man and his destiny."

Young man, if you grasp the opportunities that are offered to you, you can climb to the top round on the ladder of life, where you can sway a powerful influence over your fellow-men, and your name will go resounding down through the ages as an example for others to follow.

Let us notice for a moment some of the opportunities that are offered. We look into a home and we see two young men. They are just starting out on the stage of action. They have the same opportunities to make a successful life. One grasps these golden opportunities and becomes a man of noble integrity and character, of success and honor, while the other neglects his opportunities and spends his time in idleness and revelry, his opportunities have flown, and he sinks into dissipation and vice.

Again, we see two young men passing down the street. One of them says, "I believe I will join the church to-night." The other young man says, "Oh, I wouldn't join yet, you have got plenty of time." And the other who has a natural tendency to the downward course says, "all right," and he goes down to death and destruction, but when they pass into the dark beyond and stand at the judgment bar, what remorse and despair will be in that young man's heart that said "I wouldn't join the church now." He will see that he lost the glorious opportunity of saving a soul. Ah! young man, can you in your past life think of a time where you lost such an opportunity? Have you spoken words that have decided some one's destiny for this world and the next? Re-

member that an opportunity missed may be an eternity lost.

We should watch for opportunities. If we do not, we will let many of them fly by, and when they are once gone they can never be recalled, they are gone forever.

If you see some one down-hearted and care worn there is an opportunity to console him. If you see some one that is mourning for some loved one who has passed through Death's veil, there is an opportunity to tell him about the glorious remnant of loved ones over the voiceless river. If some one is sick and lonesome there is an opportunity to carry him beautiful flowers, that they may brighten his lonesome hours. Don't wait till after he is gone, for then those flowers will cast no perfume of joy and happiness over the weary days of the departed.

The door of supreme opportunity swings open to every young man. God stands at the door and says, "Now is the time! Show what is in thee!" One young man enters this door while the other passes by and fails. We should be about "our Father's business," watching for opportunities, for the night cometh wherein no man can work. In an hour when ye think not the Son of man may come to us in the supreme moments of our life, and find us sleeping on the threshold of a matchless opportunity.

Let us be awake to our opportunities, and then when we pass the "Silent River," and we walk down the beautiful streams of eternal life and pluck those never-fading flowers there will be beautiful jewels sparkling in our crowns. They will be jewels of opportunity.

"A judgeship is vacant, the ermine awaits,  
The shoulders of youth, brave, honest, and true,  
Some one will be standing by fame's open gates,  
I wonder, my boys,—will it be one of you?  
A pulpit is waiting for some one to fill,  
Of eloquent men there are only a few,  
The man who can fill it, must have power to thrill  
The best will be chosen,—will it be one of you?  
The great men about us will pass to their rest,  
Their places will be filled by the boys who pursue,  
The search for the highest, the noblest, the best,  
I wonder who'll fill them: I hope it will be you."  
Johnstown, Pa.

"THIS is a short world; whether it be filled with joy or sorrow, light or shade, it matters little. Here we are to work and wait, but soon all will be over, and the eternal day will dawn—the clouds and shades and storms will pass; and oh, that we when the morning breaks, may 'as children of light' be found watching and waiting, prepared for the bright and everlasting day."—*Evangelical Messenger*.